

Currents

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water



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

MWA hosts 2017 Georgia Vigilant Guard Exercises for Disaster Preparedness

The Macon Water Authority (MWA), in cooperation with the Georgia National Guard and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), hosted the 2017 Vigilant Guard Exercises at the Amerson Water



Sargent Martika Burnett (left) and Specialist Raven Singleton, with the Georgia Army National Guard, showcase the Tactical Water Purification System during Vigilant Guard Exercises with the MWA.

Treatment Plant over the course of two days during the last week in March.

The first day featured a demonstration of the Tactical Water Purification System (TWPS) and a Tabletop Exercise simulating a Dam Breach, while the second day included a full-scale Chlorine Spill Exercise on site within the vicinity of the Amerson Plant.

The "2017 Georgia Vigilant Guard" exercises held around the state this Spring are sponsored by the United States Northern Command (U.S. NORTHCOM), in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau (NGB). These exercises provide the Georgia National Guard with opportunities to improve cooperation and relationships with local, state, and regional civilian, military, and federal partners, in preparation for emergencies and responses to all-hazards or catastrophic events.

The efforts by the MWA staff to prepare and practice for emergencies and possible disasters are reflected in the Authority's recent Five-Year Strategic

Plan, which features focused areas of improvement that include Security & Emergency Preparedness.

For more coverage and information on the MWA Vigilant Guard exercises, check out the Authority's website at www.maconwater.org.



First Responders from the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department go through a decontamination area after addressing a simulated chlorine gas leak (in the background) at the MWA Amerson Plant.

EPD eases water use restrictions for Macon-Bibb County

Daily outdoor watering allowed before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

With drought conditions improving throughout the state, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) eased its Drought Response on March 2nd for 86 counties, including Macon-Bibb. Georgia EPD has moved Macon-Bibb County from a Level 1 to a Non-Drought Response Level.

As a result, MWA customers may water outdoor landscapes daily, prior to 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m., as required under the EPD's Non-Drought Response Level.

The MWA is known for its secure, abundant water supply at Javors Lucas Lake - a 589-acre reservoir that holds 5.8 billion gallons of water at full pool.

Even with such a plentiful water supply at their disposal, MWA customers are encouraged to continue wise water use, such as:

★ Fix leaks immediately, inside and outside of your home.

- ★ Don't use a toilet as a trash can. Flushing uses up to 7 gallons.
- ★ Don't leave the tap running when shaving or brushing teeth.
- ★ Scrape food from dishes into the trash before washing them.
- ★ Use the dishwasher / washing machine only for full loads.
- ★ Upgrade appliances to WaterSense and Energy Star models.
- ★ Upgrade to high efficiency toilets and shower heads.
- ★ Only water plants when necessary.
- ★ Convert lawn (grass) to areas of drought-tolerant plants.
- ★ Adjust sprinklers to only water the lawn, not hard surfaces.

For more information on the current outdoor water use schedule, including wise water use tips, check out online resources at www.georgiawatersmart.com.

Changes/updates to the Outdoor Watering Schedule will be posted at www.maconwater.org.

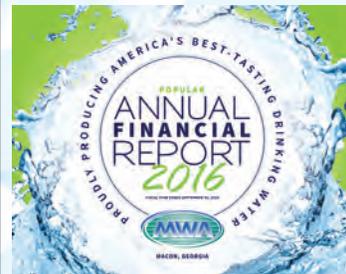


Thanks to the water storage capacity at Javors Lucas Lake (pictured above with the Amerson Plant in the background), the MWA has an abundant water supply to withstand even the worst drought conditions.

Popular Annual Financial Report reflects a clean audit

An easy-to-read overview of FY 2016 financials and more

As a means of sharing highlights of its financials from Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 with customers and the community, the MWA has published its 2016 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR).



A copy of the MWA's most recent Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is available on the Authority's website at www.maconwater.org.

The financial information included in the PAFR - for the year ending Sept. 30, 2016 - is compiled from the Authority's recent annual audit, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which received an "unmodified" or "clean" audit opinion from independent auditors. The PAFR is an easy-to-read consolidated adaptation of the Authority's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) published for the public's benefit.

"The Authority had a productive and financially solid FY 2016," says Guy Boyle, MWA Executive Vice President of Business Operations and

Chief Financial Officer. "We continued to improve the customer experience, reinvest strategically in our system, identify long-term planning goals, and focus on the value of water."

The MWA continues to offer the very best in water and sewer services to customers at rates that are among the most affordable and competitive in the state and region.

Credit for the quality of the 2016 PAFR goes to the MWA Finance Department and support staff. The MWA has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for "Outstanding Achievement in Financial Reporting" for 19 consecutive years, as well as for "Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting" for four consecutive years.

The Authority's PAFR and CAFR are available on the MWA website at www.maconwater.org.



SECOND FRONT

GAWP Spring Conference recognizes Top Ops and Best Facilities

During the Spring Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), employees from the MWA will be recognized as the District's Top Operators for both Water and Wastewater Plants, as well as for 100% compliance at all three of the utility's treatment facilities.

Brian McDade, MWA Operator at the Amerson Plant, has been selected as the Top Water Plant Operator in Georgia's District 5, while Quinton Gibson, an Operator at the Rocky Creek Plant, has been awarded the District's Top Wastewater Plant Operator.

McDade is a Class 2 Water Operator who has been with the MWA for three years, after working previously for a privately-owned water treatment company and Georgia Power.



Quinton Gibson and Brian McDade (pictured among the pumps at the Gold Award-Winning Amerson Plant) were selected as the Top Operators of the water and wastewater plants, respectively, in Georgia's District 5.

Gibson has worked for the MWA for 12 years, beginning as an operator at the Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility. After receiving his Class 2 Wastewater Treatment License, he was promoted to his present position of Shift Supervisor.

In addition to having the District's Top Ops, the MWA's Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility won the GAWP Platinum Award for 100% permit compliance for the 18th consecutive year. The MWA Lower Poplar Water Reclamation Facility and Amerson Water Treatment Plant have both won GAWP Gold Awards for 100% compliance during 2016.

More details on these and other MWA awards are available online at www.maconwater.org.

Amerson Plant Open House is May 11

The MWA is known for the quality of water produced at its Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant, which will be open to the public for tours on Thursday May 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The Open House at the Amerson Plant is a means for the Authority to celebrate National Drinking Water Week, which is recognized nationally from May 7-13, this year.

During the Amerson Plant Open House, guests will be able to tour the award-winning facility, from the intake at the Ocmulgee River, to the filtration system, to the finished drinking water storage, to the water quality laboratory, which are all critical parts of the process that assures customers are receiving the highest quality drinking water. The Authority also will provide giveaways and refreshments during the day.

The Amerson Plant is a recent recipient of the GAWP Gold Award for 100% permit compliance during 2016. Since opening in 2000, the Amerson Plant is a five-time winner of the GAWP's "Plant of the Year" Award in Georgia.

Fishing Derby at Lucas Lake is June 3

The MWA also is known for its abundant water supply at Javors Lucas Lake, a 589-acre drinking water reservoir that holds 5.8 billion gallons of water at full pool.

On Saturday June 3, Javors Lucas Lake will be the site of the 12th Annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby, which allows families to fish for free while children between the ages of 3 to 16 compete for prizes in four age group categories, along with a grand prize for the biggest catch of the day. Registration opens at 6:00 a.m. and the tournament begins at 7:00 a.m., with the weigh-in at 10:30 a.m. to determine the winners. Refreshments will be provided.

The Amerson Plant Open House and Kids Fishing Derby at Javors Lucas Lake are events organized by Macon Water Alliance, a non-profit subsidiary of the MWA founded to provide environmental education

programs for students and adults in Macon-Bibb County.

For more information on these and other public education events at the MWA, contact our staff at 478-464-5650, or log onto our website at www.maconwater.org.



Riverkeeper Rally paddles its way to Amerson River Park on Sunday May 7

Want to enjoy recreation on one of our most critical natural resources and sources for drinking water? Come join the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Riverkeeper for the annual Riverkeeper Rally at Amerson River Park (2551 North Pierce Drive) on Sunday May 7.

The Riverkeeper Rally will bring people together to float and paddle on the Ocmulgee River, beginning at 2:00 p.m., prior to enjoying barbecue and fellowship from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Guests can bring their own boats, or rent canoes and kayaks from Ocmulgee Outdoor Adventures for \$10. In fact, there will be a door prize drawing for a chance to win a new kayak.



The Riverkeeper Rally is a celebration of the Ocmulgee River, says Jen Hilburn, with the Altamaha Riverkeeper.

"We are proud to partner with the Macon Water Authority, because both organizations recognize the economic value of clean water and work to protect it," says Hilburn. "The Authority actively seeks to improve infrastructure and water works with creative and alternative solutions that are more protective of our natural resources, while providing the best drinking water for our community."

For more information on the Riverkeeper Rally, email Jen@AltamahariverKeeper.org.

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